

Fund” in the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–102)(the “Act”), as carried forward by the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 110–5), that relates to waiver of a provision is assigned to the Secretary of State. The Director of National Drug Control Policy and the Director of National Intelligence shall, consistent with applicable law, provide the Secretary of State with such information as may be necessary to assist the Secretary in the performance of such function.

Reference in this memorandum to the provision in the Act shall be deemed to include references to any provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such provision.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 29.

Proclamation 8169—Minority Enterprise Development Week, 2007 *August 28, 2007*

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Minority Enterprise Development Week is a chance to highlight the accomplishments of minority business owners and underscore our commitment to strengthening minority businesses and helping these entrepreneurs succeed.

Minority business owners have made our Nation stronger. Our thriving and resilient economy is the envy of the world, and minority business owners are expanding opportunities for their fellow Americans.

More than 8 million jobs have been created in our country since August 2003, and minority businesses have contributed to this progress. Our economy has experienced more than 5 years of uninterrupted growth, and the unemployment rate remains low. My

Administration has worked with the Congress to deliver needed tax relief, and this has left more money in the hands of minority business owners to reinvest in their employees, their communities, and our country’s robust economy. By adopting sound policies that help our businesses continue to grow and expand, we are ensuring that America remains the land of the entrepreneur.

Our Nation has the most innovative, industrious, and talented people on Earth and when we unleash their entrepreneurial spirit, there is no limit to what the American people can achieve. During Minority Enterprise Development Week, and throughout the year, we recognize the vital contributions of minority business owners. These dedicated individuals are helping create a more hopeful society for themselves and their families. We will continue to strive for a society where personal effort is rewarded and where the American dream is within the reach of all our citizens.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 9 through September 15, 2007, as Minority Enterprise Development Week. I call upon all Americans to celebrate this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to recognize the many contributions of our Nation’s minority enterprises.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:03 a.m., August 30, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 29, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on August 31.

Remarks on Hurricane Katrina Recovery Efforts in New Orleans

August 29, 2007

The President. Madam Principal, thank you for having us.

Principal Doris Hicks. You're quite welcome. It's our pleasure.

The President. Laura and I are honored to be here. During the moment of reflection, it is a time to ask for the Almighty's blessings on those who suffered, those who lost a loved one, and remember that there's always a more blessed day in the future. And that's what we're here to celebrate, a more blessed day. And there's no better place to do so than in a place of hope, and that's a school. And so we're honored that you would welcome us. We love being with your teachers and your students. Thanks for being here.

Governor, thanks for coming. Governor Kathleen Blanco is an educational reformer. She has done what leaders are supposed to do, and when she sees a problem, address them head on and pass law and budget necessary to achieve educational excellence. And you've done so, Governor. I congratulate you for your leadership.

I'm proud to be with the Congressman. Jeff, thanks for coming. You care deeply about the students of this district, and we're glad you're here.

I do want to thank Don Powell for joining us. Don is the recovery man who represents the White House and the administration here in Washington—from—in Louisiana from Washington. And I thank you for your service.

I appreciate the State education superintendent, Pastorek. Superintendent, thanks for coming. He's got a vision of excellence for the schools in New Orleans and for Louisiana. He shared that vision with us earlier.

I appreciate Paul Vallas, superintendent here in New Orleans, for his willingness to take on this challenge. He doesn't view it as a problem; he views it as an opportunity. I first met Paul in Chicago, where he was an advocate then like he is today of high expectations and strong accountability to make sure every child learns.

I appreciate Hilda Young; Sister Finnerty—she's the superintendent of the

Catholic school system here. I thank all the teachers, students, and parents who've joined us.

Hurricane Katrina broke through the levees; it broke a lot of hearts; it destroyed buildings. But it didn't affect the spirit of a lot of citizens in this community. This spirit can be best reflected when you think about a principal who refused to allow a school to be destroyed by the flood and worked hard to not only rebuild the building but keep the spirit alive. Or it can be reflected in the fact that teachers commute. We met a seventh grade teacher today who commutes 30 miles every day to be able to impart knowledge and to share wisdom with students who will be leading New Orleans in the future.

And so it's—my attitude is this: New Orleans, better days are ahead. It's sometimes hard for people to see progress when you live in a community all the time. Laura and I get to come—we don't live here; we come on occasion. And it's easy to think about what it was like when we first came here after the hurricane and what it's like today. And this town is coming back. This town is better today than it was yesterday, and it's going to be better tomorrow than it was today. And there's no better place to find that out than in the school system.

First, I do want to thank our fellow citizens for their generosity when it comes to helping New Orleans and the gulf coast rebuild. The citizens of this country thus far have paid out \$114 billion in tax revenues—their money—to help the folks down here. And I appreciate the Governor. Last night we went to—we had a nice dinner here in New Orleans—by the way, I have yet to recover. [*Laughter*] Dooky Chase's—if you want to eat a lot of good food, go there. But during that dinner, the Governor expressed her appreciation to the taxpayers of America. In other words, the taxpayers and people from all around the country have got to understand, the people of this part of the world really do appreciate the fact that the American citizens are supportive of the recovery effort.

Of the 114 billion spent so far and resources allocated so far, about 80 percent of the funds have been disbursed or available. And, of course, Don and I will try to work through the bureaucracy in Washington, just